

Claim 36 is directed to an animal model for diabetes comprising the null mutant rodent of any of claims 1, 27-30.

The Office Action and Applicant's Election

The Examiner required restriction, under 35 U.S.C. § 121, and required Applicant to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

The Examiner characterized the following five claim groups:

1. Group I; Claims 1-20, 25-32 and 36, drawn to a "null mutant rodent comprising in its germ cells an artificially induced PTTG null mutation and use of said mutant rodent for the study of diabetes, hyperglycemia, hypoinsulinaemia, and hypoleptinemia."
2. Group II; Claims 21-24, drawn to "somatic cells, germ cells or cell lines derived from the null mutant rodent having PTTG null mutation."
3. Group III; Claims 1, 27-31 and 33, drawn to a "null mutant rodent comprising in its germ cells an artificially induced PTTG null mutation and use of said mutant rodent for the study of chromosomal aneuploidy, chromosomal damage, etc."
4. Group IV; Claims 1, 27-31 and 34, drawn to a "null mutant rodent comprising in its germ cells an artificially induced PTTG null mutation and use of said mutant rodent for the study of thrombocytopenia, thymic hyperplasia, and splenic hypoplasia."
5. Group V; Claims 1, 27-31 and 35, drawn to a "null mutant rodent comprising in its germ cells an artificially induced PTTG null mutation and use of said mutant rodent for the study of testicular hypoplasia and female subfertility."

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PATENT

As required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.142, Applicant elects Group I, without traverse.

Applicant's election is made with a complete reservation of all rights under 35 U.S.C. § 121.

Respectfully submitted,

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